

AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A medical electrical lead comprising:

an elongated insulative lead body [having a tissue-contacting surface] that is not formed with an active agent;

an elongated conductor having a proximal end and a distal end, mounted within the insulative lead body; [and];

an electrode coupled to the distal end of the electrical conductor [form] for making electrical contact with bodily tissue; and

a polymer overcoating of said lead body providing a tissue-contacting surface,
a proximal end, and a distal end,

wherein the tissue-contacting surface of the insulative lead body comprises an overcoating of a non-porous polymer intimately mixed with a steroidal anti-inflammatory agent; and

wherein said overcoating is chosen such that said polymer and said active agent are free of micron sized particulates.

2. (Original) The medical electrical lead of claim 1 wherein the polymer is selected from the group of polyurethanes, silicones, polyamides, polyamides, polycarbonates, polyethers, polyesters, polyvinyl aromatics, polytetrafluoroethylenes, polyolefins, acrylic polymers or copolymers, vinyl halide polymers or copolymers, polyvinyl ethers, polyvinyl esters, polyvinyl ketones, polyvinylidene halides, polyacrylonitriles, copolymers of vinyl monomers with each other and olefins, and combinations thereof.

3. (Original) The medical electrical lead of claim 2 wherein the polymer is selected from the group of polyurethanes, silicones, or combinations thereof.

4. (Original) The medical electrical lead of claim 1 wherein the anti-inflammatory agent is a glucocorticosteroid.

5. (Original) The medical electrical lead of claim 4 wherein the glucocorticosteroid is selected from the group of cortisol, cortisone, fludrocortisone, Prednisone, Prednisolone, 6 α -methylprednisolone, triamcinolone, betamethasone, dexamethasone, beclomethasone, aclomethasone, amcinonide, clebethasol, clocortolone, derivatives thereof, and salts thereof.

6. (Original) The medical electrical lead of claim 5 wherein the glucocorticosteroid is dexamethasone, a derivative thereof, or a salt thereof.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. The medical electrical lead of claim 1 wherein the tissue-contacting surface further includes heparin.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Amended) A method of making a medical electrical lead comprising:

providing an elongated insulative lead body not formed with an active agent and having [a tissue-contacting surface], a proximal end, and a distal end; [wherein the]

overcoating the tissue-contacting surface of said lead body [comprises an overcoating formed from] with a non-porous polymer cosolvated and intimately mixed with a steroidal anti-inflammatory agent, said overcoating chosen such that said non-porous polymer and said active agent are free of micron sized particulates; [. of a non-porous polymer intimately mixed with a steroidal anti-inflammatory agent];

providing an elongated conductor having a proximal end and a distal end;

mounting the elongated conductor within the insulative lead body; and

coupling an electrode to the distal end of the electrical conductor for making electrical contact with bodily tissue.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)